

COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Sen. Stephen Fenberg, Vice-Chair
Sen. John Cooke
Rep. Daneya Esgar
Sen. Dominick Moreno
Rep. Hugh McKean

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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June 13, 2022

Policy of the Executive Committee Pursuant to Section 2-3-303 (2)(g)(I), C.R.S.

Regulations for Remote Testimony in Joint Committees During the 2022 Legislative Interim

Section 1 – Remote Testimony Permitted

Section 2-3-303 (2)(g)(I), C.R.S., allows the Executive Committee of the Legislative Council to establish policies allowing legislative committees to take remote testimony from government officials and employees as well as other members of the public. This policy is effective June 13, 2022, and will remain in effect during the 2022 legislative interim only until revised or rescinded. This policy supersedes Section 3 of the Policy of the Executive Committee pursuant to Section 2-3-303 (2)(h)(I)(B), C.R.S. – Electronic Participation in Legislative Proceedings during a Declared Public Health Disaster Emergency, dated January 20, 2021.

This policy applies to all joint committees that take public testimony. Not all joint committees take public testimony. This policy does not require joint committees to take public testimony. While these regulations are in effect, government officials and employees and members of the public may testify remotely in any joint committee that is taking public testimony by registering in advance of the hearing. Remote witnesses may provide:

- video testimony through the video conferencing software Zoom; or

- telephone testimony by calling the Zoom call-in option, by request.

Registered witnesses may provide remote testimony from any location in the state.

Section 2 – Registration Process

Advance registration required. Witnesses providing remote testimony must register in advance, and must be registered as a remote testimony witness at the time the hearing item begins in order to testify remotely. Not all hearing items considered by joint committees are available for public testimony; the chair determines on which hearing items public testimony will occur. For the hearing items that the chair has made available for public testimony, registration for remote testimony will be available at the time the hearing item is scheduled.

Remote testimony registration closes when the hearing on the bill or hearing item begins.

Committee schedule and schedule changes during the legislative session. During the legislative session, committee schedules will be published in the House and Senate calendars on a daily basis. For committee changes that occur on the day of a committee hearing, please visit the General Assembly's committee Twitter feed for updates - [@COLCSCcommittees](#).

Committee schedule and schedule changes during the legislative interim. Committee agendas and changes to agendas that have previously been posted will be available on the General Assembly's website: leg.colorado.gov.

Registration website and required information. Witnesses may register for remote testimony by visiting: <https://leg.colorado.gov/testimony>.

To register, witnesses must provide their name, email address, phone number, zip code, position on the bill, and the name of the organization they represent, if any.

Confirmation of registration. After submitting the required information, witnesses will receive an email confirming registration and providing the Zoom meeting link to connect to the committee hearing. Witnesses who do not receive a confirmation email may contact lcs.committees.ga@state.co.us or call 303-866-3521 for assistance.

Registered witnesses only. Only registered witnesses will be allowed into the Zoom meeting. Witnesses who connect through a link or phone number shared by another person will not be permitted to testify. Witnesses should use the same name to join the Zoom meeting that they used to register.

Technical issues. Witnesses may not be able to testify if there are technical issues with the remote testimony software or issues with the witnesses' computer or internet or telephone connection. Registered witnesses are encouraged to set up Zoom and test audio video settings on their computer before the committee hearing.

Section 3 – Chair’s Authority Regarding Testimony and Decorum

Chair’s authority regarding testimony. Nothing in these regulations limits or modifies the ability of a committee chair to limit in-person and remote public testimony. For both in person and remote testimony, the chair may limit testimony to that which, in the chair’s opinion, is sufficient for the committee to consider the issue or bill on its merits. The committee chair may limit the total time allotted for testimony, and may limit the amount of time each witness may testify, regardless of whether the witness is in-person or remote. Remote and in-person witnesses may be called to testify at any point in a committee hearing. Registering to testify remotely or in-person does not guarantee that a registrant will be permitted to testify if the committee chair determines that public testimony must be limited.


Decorum. Remote testimony witnesses will automatically be muted when they enter the Zoom meeting. Legislative staff will promote witnesses as they are recognized by the committee chair to speak. To prevent delays, witnesses are expected to accept promotion requests quickly and be ready to testify. At all times, witnesses will be required to maintain proper committee protocol, which includes being acknowledged by the committee chair before speaking and following the rules for testimony established by the committee chair. Witnesses who fail to follow the rules for testimony established by the committee chair forfeit their opportunity to testify and will be removed from the Zoom meeting. Witnesses who are connecting via video should ensure that they are testifying from a location that appears to be professional on camera.

Chat. The chat feature of the Zoom conference is to be used solely to provide technical assistance and for the meeting host to share general information about the committee hearing. Witnesses who use inappropriate language in the chat or who use the Zoom chat for any other reason, including but not limited to discussing policy or politics or disparaging other witnesses, legislators, or staff, will be removed from the Zoom meeting.

Section 4 – Video and Audio of Legislative Committees

Video of legislative committees conducted with remotely participating government officials and employees and members of the public will not be broadcast or recorded and will only be available to members, staff, registered members of the public, and other entities participating in the live video conference. Live and archived audio of legislative committees will be available on the General Assembly’s website.


Speaker Alec Garnett, Chair

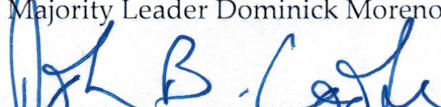
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Majority Leader Daneya Esgar

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President Stephen Fenberg, Vice-Chair


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